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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

Report of the Secretary-General

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 15 November 1995, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/15, entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union", without a vote. In that resolution, the Assembly, considering that the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) complement and support the work of the United Nations, requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary steps to conclude an agreement on cooperation between the two organizations and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session on the matter.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".
3. The present report is submitted pursuant to resolution 50/15.

II. COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

4. On 24 July 1996, a cooperation agreement between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union was signed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council and the Secretary-General of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The full text of the agreement appears in the annex to the present report.
5. The agreement aims at strengthening relations between the two organizations by substantially facilitating their effective exercise of mutually complementary activities and allowing them to cooperate more closely in undertaking joint



efforts in particular areas of their activities for the benefit of mankind. It provides that the two organizations shall hold regular consultations and that joint projects and programmes may be initiated by their competent organs. The agreement emphasizes, in particular, that the United Nations, if necessary, may request the cooperation of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in areas where the latter has developed a specific expertise through its permanent programmes.

6. The agreement also contains provisions on ensuring effective cooperation between the Secretariats of the two organizations and on arranging for the exchange of information and documentation relating to specific matters or activities of common interest with a view to attaining better complementary action.

7. In remarks made at the signing ceremony, the Secretary-General of the United Nations said that the text reinforced the ties that went back a long way between the two institutions, in numerous areas and in particular in the service of peace, human rights and democracy. The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council stated that the agreement allowed for substantial cooperation between the world organization of Governments and the world organization of parliaments, thus better expressing the will of the people at the international level.

III. OTHER MEASURES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

8. The Secretary-General of the United Nations sent a representative to attend the ninety-fifth Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Istanbul from 12 to 20 April 1996. In a message read by this representative, the Secretary-General told the members of IPU that they played a crucial role in the service of the values of the Charter of the United Nations and that their institution was one of the most accomplished realizations of the maxim that serves both as prelude and foundation for the world Organization, 'We the peoples of the United Nations'. The Secretary-General was also represented at the ninety-sixth Inter-Parliamentary Conference, held in Beijing from 16 to 21 September 1996.

9. As a first concrete expression of the cooperation agreement signed in July 1996, a meeting on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, organized jointly by IPU, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), was held in New York on 5 and 6 September 1996. The meeting was aimed at enhancing cooperation between parliaments, Governments and intergovernmental organizations for the effective implementation of the results of the World Summit for Social Development. A catalogue was drawn of concrete steps and actions to be taken by national parliaments and their members in order to follow up and implement the decisions and recommendations adopted at the World Summit in Copenhagen.

ANNEX

Cooperation agreement between the United Nations and
the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

Considering the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations calling, inter alia, for the promotion of international cooperation in solving problems of a political, economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind that, in accordance with the Charter, the United Nations is the principal organization dealing with matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security and acts as a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of the goals set out in the Charter,

Considering that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (hereinafter "IPU"), shares the principles and objectives of the Charter, and that its activities complement and support the work of the United Nations,

Recognizing in particular the important role played by IPU through its activities in promoting representative democracy,

Taking note of General Assembly resolution 50/15 of 15 November 1995, which calls for strengthening existing cooperation between the United Nations and IPU,

Have agreed as follows:

Article I

General

1. The United Nations recognizes that IPU, as the world organization of parliaments, by virtue of its character and responsibilities plays an important role in promoting peace and international cooperation in furtherance of and in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter.
2. IPU recognizes the responsibilities of the United Nations under the Charter and undertakes to continue to support its activities in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.
3. The United Nations and IPU agree that strengthening of cooperative relations between them will facilitate the effective exercise of their mutually complementary activities and, therefore, undertake to further those relations through the adoption of practical measures.

Article II

Cooperation and consultations

1. The United Nations and IPU shall cooperate closely and hold consultations as and when appropriate in pursuance of their respective mandates and for the realization of their shared objectives.
2. To this end, the United Nations and IPU shall consider the appropriate framework for such consultations as and when appropriate.

Article III

Appropriate representation

1. Should the United Nations consider an item on the agenda of an IPU meeting or conference to fall within the purview of its competence, activities and expertise, upon its request, the Secretariat of IPU will invite the United Nations to send its representatives to such meetings or conferences, subject to the applicable rules of procedure and to relevant decisions to be taken by the competent bodies of IPU.
2. Should IPU consider an item on the agenda of the General Assembly to fall within the purview of its competence, activities and expertise, upon its request, the Secretariat of the United Nations will invite IPU to send its representatives to be present during the plenary meetings of the Assembly at which such an item is considered.
3. Subject to the applicable rules of procedure and the decisions and practices of the Main Committees of the General Assembly and of a subsidiary organ of the Assembly, IPU may be invited upon its request to participate in the meetings of such bodies when they consider a subject that falls within the purview of IPU competence, activities and expertise.
4. If the convening organ so decides, IPU shall be invited to participate in the work of conferences convened under the auspices of the United Nations on subjects that fall within the competence, activities and expertise of IPU.

Article IV

Joint action and technical cooperation

Specific joint action and programmes may be initiated by the competent bodies of the United Nations and IPU. In particular, the United Nations may request the cooperation of IPU in areas where it has developed a specific expertise through its permanent programmes.

Article V

Cooperation between the Secretariats

The Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of IPU shall take appropriate measures to ensure effective cooperation and liaison between the Secretariats of the two organizations.

Article VI

Exchange of information and documents

1. The United Nations and IPU shall arrange to the fullest extent possible and so far as is practicable for the exchange of information and documents in public domain on matters of common interest.
2. Where appropriate and subject to the necessary requirements, information and documentation relating to specific projects, programmes or activities may also be exchanged between the parties with a view to attaining better complementary action and effective coordination between the two Secretariats.

Article VII

Supplementary arrangements

The Secretariat of the United Nations and the Secretariat of IPU may, if necessary, enter into supplementary administrative arrangements for the implementation of the present agreement.

Article VIII

Entry into force, amendments and duration

1. This agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signature by the duly authorized representatives of the two organizations.
2. This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the United Nations and IPU. The proposed amendment shall be made in writing and shall enter into force three months following the expression of consent by the United Nations and IPU.
3. This agreement may be terminated by either the United Nations or IPU providing a six-month written notice to the other party.

IN WITNESS THEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized representatives of the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union, have signed the present agreement.

SIGNED this 24th day of July 1996 at New York in two originals in the English language.

For the United Nations:

Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI
Secretary-General

For the Inter-Parliamentary Union:

Ahmed FATHY SOROUR
President of the
Inter-Parliamentary
Council

Pierre CORNILLON
Secretary-General
